

The Hiccups

by Phyllis J. Perry

"I wish these silly hiccups would stop," Laurie complained to her mother as they were clearing the dinner table.

"They will go away soon," her mother said.

But the hiccups did not go away. Laurie watched a TV show. Then she tried reading a book. But she hiccupped and hiccupped and hiccupped. Finally Laurie went to find her mother. "Can you do something to make these hiccups go away?" she asked.

"A drink of water might help," Mother suggested.

Laurie drank a glass of water and waited. Has it worked? she wondered. Are my hiccups gone? Suddenly, out it came—Hiccup!

When Laurie's friend, Danny, came over to play, Laurie said, "Hi, Dan—"

Hiccup! "Want to get rid of those hiccups?" asked Danny.

"Sure!" said Laurie. "But how?"

"Stand on your head," Danny said. "That will stop the hiccups every time."

Laurie looked doubtful. "How does it work?" she asked.

"I don't know," said Danny. "Maybe the hiccups get mixed up and cannot find their way out."

"I will try it," Laurie agreed. She moved over against the bedroom wall so she could lean her feet against it. As she carefully stood on her head, out came another hiccup.

"It is not working," Laurie said.

"Well, it takes a little time," Danny said as he walked over to a chair and sat down. Minutes passed— but the hiccups continued. "It is taking a little longer than I thought," Danny said.

Meanwhile, the hiccups kept coming.

Finally Danny said, "I guess I will go home. Good luck."

After Danny left, Father came in and found his upside-down daughter. "What are you doing?" he asked.

Laurie fell into a heap on the floor. "I am trying to get rid of my hiccups," she told him. "But nothing works." Hiccup!

<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3 LA.A.2.2.2 Author's Purpose Form B</p>

"Try blowing into a paper bag," Father suggested. "That is supposed to be a good cure."

Laurie ran to get a bag. Her father showed her how to fold the edges back and gather in the top so that she could blow it up like a balloon.

As Laurie blew, the bag puffed up bigger and bigger. Suddenly her father popped the bag between his hands. It made a loud BANG!

Father looked down at a surprised Laurie. "Did I scare your hiccups away?" he asked.

Hiccup! went Laurie.

That night, Laurie hiccupped in the bathtub. She hiccupped when she combed her hair, and she hiccupped while she brushed her teeth.

When Mother came to tuck her in, Laurie hiccupped so hard that the bed bounced. Mother turned off the light, and Laurie snuggled down into her pillow and waited for the next hiccup.

She waited and waited. Laurie could hear the TV downstairs. She could hear traffic noises and a dog barking up the street. All this she heard, but do you know what Laurie did not hear? She did not hear one single hiccup!

As Laurie fell asleep, she smiled. Her hiccups had gone the same way that they had come—all by themselves!

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<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3 LA.A.2.2.2 Author's Purpose Form B</p>

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the passage “The Hiccups”, then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Why did the author write “The Hiccups”?
 - A. to tell readers about having hiccups
 - B. to teach readers how to get rid of hiccups
 - C. to entertain readers with a story about hiccups
 - D. to explain why people cannot get rid of hiccups

2. With which statement would the author of “The Hiccups” MOST likely agree?
 - A. The hiccups may never go away.
 - B. The hiccups can make you sick.
 - C. The hiccups are fun to have for a while.
 - D. The hiccups come and go by themselves.

3. Why does the author include ways to end the hiccups?
 - A. to teach readers how to prevent the hiccups
 - B. to make readers aware of how hiccups start
 - C. to tell readers to use a paper bag to stop hiccups
 - D. to amuse readers with ways to stop the hiccups

4. What does the author mean when she writes that Father found his “upside-down daughter”?
 - A. Laurie was standing on her head.
 - B. Laurie was playing a game with Danny.
 - C. Laurie was always getting confused easily.
 - D. Laurie was lying on her bed with her feet at the top.

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5. Why does the author have Laurie say, “I wish these silly hiccups would stop”?
- A. to make it clear what the story is about
 - B. to explain what Laurie planned to do next
 - C. to show how Laurie felt about the hiccups
 - D. to tell how much Laurie enjoyed the hiccups

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Answer Key – The Hiccups

LA.A.2.2.2: The student identifies the author's purpose as stated or strongly implied in simple text (including recognizing when a text is intended primarily to persuade).

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